

**Leading causes of death by age  
King County, 2008-2012 average**

Source: Death Certificate Data, Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics.

Rank	King County			For age <1, see Infant death causes	Age 1-14			Age 15-24			Age 25-44			Age 45-64			Age 65-74			Age 75 and older		
		Rate	Count per Year			Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year
All Causes		628.1	11896			11.7	37		48.6	120		84.2	512		447.5	2315		1480.2	1683		7293.5	7129
1	Cancer	157.8	2929		Unintentional injury	2.9	9	Unintentional injury	20.4	50	Unintentional injury	21.7	132	Cancer	156.9	812	Cancer	574.9	654	Heart disease	1816.7	1776
2	Heart disease	131.7	2523		Cancer	2.3	7	Suicide	9.6	24	Cancer	14.4	88	Heart disease	75.0	388	Heart disease	276.2	314	Cancer	1391.5	1360
3	Alzheimer's disease	41.9	808		Congenital malformations	0.8 <sup>§</sup>	3	Homicide	6.2	15	Suicide	12.9	78	Unintentional injury	36.2	187	Chronic lower respiratory disease	96.6	110	Alzheimer's disease	791.0	773
4	Stroke	33.2	619		Homicide	0.8	2	Cancer	3.5	9	Heart disease	6.8	41	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	21.9	113	Diabetes	62.6	71	Stroke	487.4	476
5	Unintentional injury	30.5	605		Suicide	0.7 <sup>§</sup>	2	Congenital malformations	0.7 <sup>§</sup>	2	Homicide	3.4	21	Suicide	17.8	92	Stroke	56.7	64	Chronic lower respiratory disease	399.2	390
6	Chronic lower respiratory disease	32.1	575				*				Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	3.3	20	Diabetes	16.5	85	Unintentional injury	35.7	41	Diabetes	190.5	186
7	Diabetes	19.2	354				*			*	Diabetes	1.8	11	Chronic lower respiratory disease	13.4	69	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	24.5	28	Unintentional injury	188.0	184
8	Suicide	11.5	233				*			*	Stroke	1.6	10	Stroke	13.0	67	Alzheimer's disease	23.1	26	Parkinson's disease	141.0	138
9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	8.7	180				*			*	HIV/AIDS	1.3	8	Viral hepatitis	9.2	48	Kidney diseases	19.9	23	Influenza and pneumonia	134.8	132
10	Influenza and pneumonia	9.1	174				*			*	Influenza and pneumonia	0.8	5	Septicemia	4.8	25	Septicemia	18.8	21	Pneumonitis from solids/liquids	131.6	129

\* Too few cases to protect confidentiality and/or report reliable rates

§ Too few cases to meet precision standard, interpret with caution

See also Infant Death Causes

Rate = Deaths per 100,000 population.

Prepared By: Public Health - Seattle & King County;

Assessment, Policy Development, & Evaluation, 10/2014

**Leading causes of death, by gender**  
**King County, 2008-2012 average**

Source: Death Certificate Data, Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics.

Rank	King County				Females				Males		
		Rate	Count per Year			Rate	Count per Year			Rate	Count per Year
All Causes		628.1	11896			539.9	6041			742.0	5855
1	Cancer	157.8	2929		Cancer	138.3	1441		Cancer	186.1	1488
2	Heart disease	131.7	2523		Heart disease	104.3	1231		Heart disease	167.5	1292
3	Alzheimer's disease	41.9	808		Alzheimer's disease	45.1	563		Unintentional injury	40.8	374
4	Stroke	33.2	619		Stroke	32.4	373		Chronic lower respiratory disease	34.9	255
5	Unintentional injury	30.5	605		Chronic lower respiratory disease	30.4	321		Stroke	33.5	246
6	Chronic lower respiratory disease	32.1	575		Unintentional injury	21.1	231		Alzheimer's disease	35.7	244
7	Diabetes	19.2	354		Diabetes	15.4	163		Diabetes	24.0	191
8	Suicide	11.5	233		Influenza and pneumonia	7.7	91		Suicide	17.9	175
9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	8.7	180		Hypertension/Hypertensive renal disease	6.7	79		Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	11.3	114
10	Influenza and pneumonia	9.1	174		Pneumonitis from solids/liquids	6.1	72		Parkinson's disease	13.3	90

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## Leading causes of infant death King County, 2008-2012 average

Source: Linked Birth-Death Data, Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics.

	Leading infant death causes		
Rank	Age <1		
		Rate	Count per Year
All Causes		4.05	101
1	Congenital malformations	0.92	23
2	Sudden infant death syndrome	0.74	18
3	Short gestation and low birth weight	0.41	10
4	Maternal complications of pregnancy	0.29	7
5	Complications of placenta/cord	0.25	6
6	Bacterial sepsis of newborn	0.14	3
7	Diseases of circulatory system	0.11 <sup>§</sup>	3
8	Unintentional injury	0.10 <sup>§</sup>	2
9	Necrotizing enterocolitis	0.09 <sup>§</sup>	2
10	Respiratory distress	0.07	2

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Rate = Deaths per 1,000 Births

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# Leading causes of death, by race/ethnicity

## King County, 2008-2012 average

Source: Death Certificate Data, Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics.

Rank	King County			American Indian/ Alaska Native			Asian			Black			Hispanic			Multiple Race			Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander			White		
		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year
All Causes		628.1	11896		830.8	103		433.7	895		821.4	690		419.7	244		361.4	105		936.6	59		641.9	10015
1	Cancer	157.8	2929	Heart disease	165.6	17	Cancer	115.9	251	Cancer	207.6	173	Cancer	97.3	55	Cancer	112.2	28	Cancer	264.0	17	Cancer	161.4	2441
2	Heart disease	131.7	2523	Cancer	129.7	16	Heart disease	84.2	168	Heart disease	172.2	136	Heart disease	88.6	38	Heart disease	67.6	14	Heart disease	249.0	12	Heart disease	135.2	2170
3	Alzheimer's disease	41.9	808	Unintentional injury	67.9	12	Stroke	36.3	73	Unintentional injury	36.8	42	Unintentional injury	19.2	24	Unintentional injury	12.6	9	Unintentional injury	39.0	5	Alzheimer's disease	45.0	744
4	Stroke	33.2	619	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	39.0	7	Unintentional injury	17.8	41	Diabetes	50.7	39	Stroke	26.0	10	Perinatal conditions	2.7	6	Stroke	51.4	3	Chronic lower respiratory disease	34.6	513
5	Unintentional injury	30.5	605	Stroke	51.7	5	Diabetes	18.1	36	Stroke	41.7	31	Suicide	6.2	9	Chronic lower respiratory disease	22.3	5	Diabetes	28.3 <sup>§</sup>	2	Stroke	32.0	504
6	Chronic lower respiratory disease	32.1	575	Chronic lower respiratory disease	50.4	5	Alzheimer's disease	19.0	35	Chronic lower respiratory disease	31.1	25	Diabetes	20.0	9	Diabetes	18.9	4	Septicemia	23.6 <sup>§</sup>	2	Unintentional injury	32.1	495
7	Diabetes	19.2	354	Diabetes	35.7	4	Chronic lower respiratory disease	13.1	25	Alzheimer's disease	36.8	23	Perinatal conditions	3.0	9	Suicide	5.7	4	Chronic lower respiratory disease	34.1 <sup>§</sup>	1	Diabetes	17.6	267
8	Suicide	11.5	233	Alzheimer's disease	37.1	3	Influenza and pneumonia	8.3	16	Homicide	11.8	15	Alzheimer's disease	27.8	8	Stroke	12.1	3	Homicide	7.2 <sup>§</sup>	1	Suicide	12.9	197
9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	8.7	180	Suicide	14.5 <sup>§</sup>	3	Pneumonitis from solids/liqds	8.3	16	Nephritis	18.1	13	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	7.6	8	Alzheimer's disease	14.8	2	Influenza and pneumonia	22.6 <sup>§</sup>	1	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	9.4	154
10	Influenza and pneumonia	9.1	174	Influenza and pneumonia	13.7 <sup>§</sup>	2	Suicide	5.3	16	Hypertension	16.1	13	Congenital malformation	1.9	5	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	5.1	2	Suicide	14.4 <sup>§</sup>	1	Influenza and pneumonia	9.0	145

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Persons of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity can be of any race and are included in the racial categories

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**Leading causes of death, by neighborhood poverty level  
King County, 2008-2012 average**

Source: Death Certificate Data, Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics.

Rank	King County			High Poverty			Medium Poverty			Low Poverty		
		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year
All Causes		628.1	11896		764.9	1742		637.7	7900		527.4	2153
1	Cancer	157.8	2929	Cancer	181.2	404	Cancer	159.0	1900	Cancer	142.4	615
2	Heart disease	131.7	2523	Heart disease	161.4	364	Heart disease	133.7	1693	Heart disease	109.9	456
3	Alzheimer's disease	41.9	808	Unintentional injury	41.8	106	Alzheimer's disease	43.3	568	Alzheimer's disease	39.7	157
4	Stroke	33.2	619	Chronic lower respiratory disease	45.0	97	Stroke	33.4	412	Stroke	29.4	118
5	Unintentional injury	30.5	605	Stroke	39.1	88	Unintentional injury	30.9	392	Chronic lower respiratory disease	24.8	97
6	Chronic lower respiratory disease	32.1	575	Alzheimer's disease	37.3	82	Chronic lower respiratory disease	32.5	382	Unintentional injury	22.3	97
7	Diabetes	19.2	354	Diabetes	28.0	63	Diabetes	20.2	241	Diabetes	12.3	51
8	Suicide	11.5	233	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	15.2	38	Suicide	12.0	154	Suicide	9.2	43
9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	8.7	180	Suicide	13	34	Influenza and pneumonia	9.1	116	Parkinson's disease	8.8	33
10	Influenza and pneumonia	9.1	174	Influenza and pneumonia	13.0	30	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	8.6	113	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	5.4	28

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**Leading causes of death, by region  
King County, 2008-2012 average**

Source: Death Certificate Data, Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics.

Rank	King County			East			North			Seattle			South		
		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year		Rate	Count per Year
All Causes		628.1	11896		527.9	2550		649.5	989		622.3	3917		699.1	4388
1	Cancer	157.8	2929	Cancer	137.8	667	Cancer	154.3	221	Cancer	157.9	938	Cancer	172.3	1093
2	Heart disease	131.7	2523	Heart disease	111.0	541	Heart disease	132.1	210	Heart disease	129.9	843	Heart disease	148.3	919
3	Alzheimer's disease	41.9	808	Alzheimer's disease	45.1	217	Alzheimer's disease	51.7	87	Alzheimer's disease	36.4	253	Alzheimer's disease	42.5	251
4	Stroke	33.2	619	Stroke	30.0	143	Stroke	36.2	57	Unintentional injury	31.8	207	Chronic lower respiratory disease	41.3	246
5	Unintentional injury	30.5	605	Unintentional injury	22.6	112	Chronic lower respiratory disease	30.2	44	Stroke	31.8	202	Unintentional injury	34.3	232
6	Chronic lower respiratory disease	32.1	575	Chronic lower respiratory disease	23.8	108	Unintentional injury	29.4	43	Chronic lower respiratory disease	29.6	176	Stroke	36.0	216
7	Diabetes	19.2	354	Diabetes	12.2	56	Diabetes	17.6	26	Diabetes	20.8	126	Diabetes	23.1	146
8	Suicide	11.5	233	Suicide	10.1	53	Parkinson's disease	11.5	17	Suicide	12.0	80	Suicide	11.6	81
9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	8.7	180	Parkinson's disease	9.8	44	Pneumonitis from solids/liquids	11.4	17	Influenza and pneumonia	9.1	61	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	10.5	78
10	Influenza and pneumonia	9.1	174	Pneumonitis from solids/liquids	8.1	39	Suicide	12.7	16	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	9.1	58	Influenza and pneumonia	11.1	68

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## Leading causes of death by comparison areas

Sources: Death Certificate Data, Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics; National Center for Health Statistics

Rank	United States (2012)			Washington State (2012)			King County (2012)		
		Rate	Annual Count		Rate	Annual Count		Rate	Annual Count
All Causes		743.3	493641		689.0	50056		623.2	12264
1	Heart disease	173.7	599711	Cancer	163.1	11935	Cancer	153.2	2973
2	Cancer	169.0	582623	Heart disease	140.7	10337	Heart disease	124.7	2487
3	Chronic lower respiratory disease	42.5	143489	Alzheimer's disease	44.3	3220	Alzheimer's disease	41.1	820
4	Stroke	37.9	128546	Chronic lower respiratory disease	41.5	2952	Unintentional injury	32.1	649
5	Unintentional injury	39.1	127792	Unintentional injury	38.4	2736	Chronic lower respiratory disease	30.8	581
6	Alzheimer's disease	24.7	83637	Stroke	34.8	2513	Stroke	29.3	570
7	Diabetes	21.6	73932	Diabetes	22.8	1652	Diabetes	19.3	377
8	Influenza and pneumonia	15.7	50636	Suicide	14.7	1035	Suicide	13.2	269
9	Nephritis	13.4	45622	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	11.2	863	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	9.7	209
10	Suicide	12.3	40600	Influenza and pneumonia	10.0	725	Parkinson's disease	10.2	181

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## Leading causes of death by decade

Source: Death Certificate Data, Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics

King County (1992)				King County (2002)			King County (2012)		
Rank		Rate	Annual Count		Rate	Annual Count		Rate	Annual Count
All Causes					716.5	11571		623.2	12264
1	Heart disease	230.6	2957	Cancer	181.8	2890	Cancer	153.2	2973
2	Cancer	208.6	2796	Heart disease	171.0	2745	Heart disease	124.7	2487
3	Stroke	70.9	889	Stroke	61.7	988	Alzheimer's disease	41.1	820
4	Chronic lower respiratory disease	41.2	541	Chronic lower respiratory disease	40.2	629	Unintentional injury	32.1	649
5	Unintentional injury	28.6	436	Alzheimer's disease	37.0	596	Chronic lower respiratory disease	30.8	581
6	HIV/AIDS	17.9	313	Unintentional injury	27.4	493	Stroke	29.3	570
7	Influenza and pneumonia	23.9	297	Diabetes	24.0	376	Diabetes	19.3	377
8	Diabetes	20.7	282	Influenza and pneumonia	15.3	247	Suicide	13.2	269
9	Suicide	13.4	212	Suicide	10.1	186	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	9.7	209
10	Alzheimer's disease	14.7	179	Pneumonitis from solids/liquids	8.8	141	Parkinson's disease	10.2	181

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